

Ravalli County Board of Commissioners
215 South 4th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 375-6500
FAX (406) 375-6507

July 23, 2008

Dan Sullivan, Bureau Chief
Montana Department of Agriculture
303 North Roberts
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620-0201

Re: Reimbursement request for pesticides collected in Ravalli County May 16 and 17

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

You may recall Rod Daniel from the Ravalli County Environmental Health Department had several conversations with you in June regarding your department's Pesticide Disposal Program picking up some of the cost for our Hazardous Waste Disposal Event in May. We were under the impression that your department would help offset our disposal costs for pesticides. Rod said you seemed agreeable to this request, but the conversation ended on Wednesday, June 25, when you said you didn't know how you could issue payment since the fiscal year was up at the end of that week. We're asking you to reconsider your decision.

In the months leading up to our county's first HazWaste collection event, Rod had numerous conversations with Dusti Johnson from Montana DEQ, who told him she thought the Pesticide Disposal Program might want to partner with us on the event. Since we had already hired a contractor (Chem-Safe Environmental, Inc.), Dusti said she would try to arrange with Leonard Berry from the Ag Department's Pesticide Disposal Program to pick up a portion of our cost of collecting and disposing of pesticides. She also promised that people from her and your department would be at our HazWaste event to assist with the pesticides.

Our HazWaste event was a huge success, but no one from Dusti's department or the Department of Agriculture showed up to help. In 16 hours we collected 3,600 gallons of used motor oil, 600 gallons of used antifreeze, 2,500 gallons of oil-based paint and solvents, and 50 drums of pesticides, poisons, chlorinated solvents and reactives. In fact, we collected so much hazardous waste, the contractors' cost exceeded their estimates by more than \$10,000. In particular, the contractor said he was surprised by how much pesticides we took in.

We received \$25,000 in grant money from DEQ to cover the cost of our HazWaste event. In addition, we raised more than \$10,000 locally for the event. In the

end, we were \$4,885 over budget – largely due to the unexpected amount of pesticides we took in.

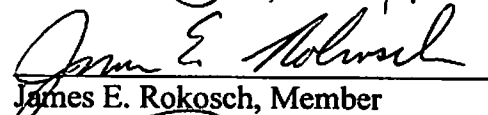
We believe it is entirely appropriate for the Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Disposal Program to help us pay for the pesticides we collected. The fact that there has never been a pesticide disposal event south of Missoula in the western district -- that's according to Rob Johnson, Ravalli County's extension agent for 32 years -- means that an unusually large quantity of pesticides had built up over the years.

We ask that you consider paying for at least a portion of the cost of pesticide disposal. The total amount of lab pack waste collected was 43 55-gallon drums. The cost of disposal of the lab pack waste was \$7,095 and the cost of the drums was \$3,225, for a total of \$10,320. The contractor estimated that 80 percent or more of the lab pack waste was pesticides.


We would be pleased if your program could pick up half of our cost – about \$5,000. Thank you for considering our request.

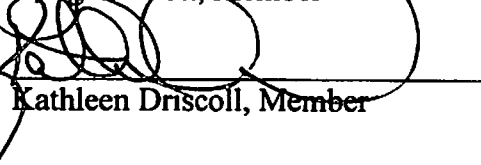
Sincerely,


Carlotta Grandstaff, Chairman


James E. Rokosch, Member


Alan Thompson, Member


Greg Chilcott, Member


Kathleen Driscoll, Member

Cc: Dusti Johnson, DEQ
Brian Spangler, DEQ
Leonard Berry, DOA
Hal Harper, Governor's Office